

Congregational Support Commission
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
Fall Meeting Report, Nov. 16, 2024

The Congregational Support Commission is often a community of faiths connection to the Region. Our regional website lists “Connecting, Supporting, Transforming” as the key focus for the regional council. We assist communities of faith during times of transition, including when your minister leaves, when you are considering an amalgamation or disbandment or when you might be thinking about collaborating with another congregation or congregations. The responsibilities of the Commission include:

- The articulation of ministry (Community of Faith Profile)
- The use of financial and property resources
- Advise around governance
- The overall health and well-being of communities of faith, such as changes in the life cycle, dealing with real property etc.
- Amalgamations, Disbandments and Collaborations.

There are some excellent resources on the regional website that can help guide a community of faith in many aspects of church life <https://wowrcucc.ca/toolkits/>

We are extremely grateful to the large number of Pastoral Charge Supervisors who take on the extra work of supporting congregations who are without ministry personnel. This important work insures a connection between the congregation and the wider church and provides the congregation with support around polity. In January a new policy regarding Pastoral Charge Supervisors came into effect which ensures that the pastoral charge supervisor is compensated for their time. More information about this new policy can be found at the toolkit link above under Toolkit #10.

As Chair, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the commission who are always prompt to respond to emails and take the work of our commission very seriously. Also a huge thank you to Sue Duliban who was our minute taker and who took care of things like Property Resolutions for the Commission. We wish her well in her retirement. And to John Neff, Minister for Congregational Support who does much work behind the scenes and between meetings.

Submitted by: Ann Harbridge, Commission Chair

Members of the Commission:

Rebekah Duncan, Norm Eygenraam, Lesley Fox, Bruce Gregersen, Marg Krauter , Peter Kudelka, Peter Kupfer, Sharon Norton, Colin Snyder, Roz Vincent-Haven